

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**  
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For Immediate Release

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**Service Determines “Finding of No Significant Impact” on Proposal to Improve Motorboat Access on Sherman Reservoir**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined a “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI) for the final Environmental Assessment of the State of Nebraska proposal “Sherman Reservoir Motorboat Access Improvement” as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The proposal is a Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration project to be funded jointly by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

The final Environmental Assessment prepared by the NGPC, and the Service, analyzed NGPC’s proposal to improve the boating access through the construction of breakwaters and the excavation of coves. The proposal will involve excavating sediment from three coves to deepen the boating channels for enhanced boating access. The excavation work will remove a total of 140,000 cubic yards of sediment from the reservoir basin. In addition, ten breakwater structures that range in size from 200 to 1,050 feet long will be constructed at four sites. The breakwaters will reduce siltation and sedimentation due to wind and wave action and help maintain safe boating access.

Public notices on the availability of the draft Environmental Assessment and opportunity to provide comments were published in a State-wide news release for a fifteen day review period. In addition, the draft Environmental Assessment was distributed statewide in Nebraska to all congressional delegates, and governmental agencies. The draft Environmental Assessment was also made available online at <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/federalassistance/>. Copies of the draft Environmental Assessment were provided to the following agencies for review and comment: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Bureau of Reclamation, Natural Resources Conservation Service , U.S. Geological Survey, and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Comments on the draft Environmental Assessment included: 6 letters of citizen support from the surrounding communities and seven requests for the web address to review the Environmental Assessment document. No opposing comments on the proposal were received.

The NEPA process requires any federal funded project be reviewed for potential impacts to the human environment. The objective of NEPA is to consider every significant impact on natural and physical environment and to assure the public plays a role in the decision making process.

The FONSI and the final Environmental Assessment are available online at <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/federalassistance/>. Those without internet access may request copies by calling the Service’s Division of Federal Assistance, 303-236-8156.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses nearly 540

national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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